



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 47.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, January 07, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena, Minister of Lands

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education

Hon. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Health

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera, Minister of Public Security

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Justice

- Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola**, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation
- Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna**, State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection
- Hon. Ajith Nivard Cabraal**, State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms
- Hon. Siripala Gamalath**, State Minister of Canals and Common Infrastructure Development in Settlements in Mahaweli Zones
- Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa**, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
- Hon. D. V. Chanaka**, State Minister of Aviation and Export Zones Development
- Hon. Sisira Jayakody**, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health
- Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne**, State Minister of Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation Development related to Rural Paddy Fields
- Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification
- Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva**, State Minister of Production and Supply of Fertilizer and Regulation of Chemical Fertilizer and Insecticide Use
- Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development
- Hon. Sanath Nishantha**, State Minister of Rural and Divisional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development
- Hon. Arundika Fernando**, State Minister of Coconut, Kithul and Palmyrah Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing & Export Diversification
- Hon. Susil Premajayantha**, State Minister of Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion
- Hon. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas and Bhikkhu Education
- Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion
- Hon. Lohan Ratwatte**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries and State Minister of Prison Management & Prisoners' Rehabilitation
- Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa**, State Minister of Paddy and Grains, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promotion, Seed Production and Advanced Technology Agriculture
- Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura**, State Minister of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion
- Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka**, State Minister of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion

- Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage**, State Minister of Rural and School Sports Infrastructure Improvement
- Hon. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandary & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation
- Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera**, State Minister of Warehouse Facilities, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats and Shipping Industry Development
- Hon. Shehan Semasinghe**, State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self-Employment and Business Development
- Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Material Industries
- Hon. Kanaka Herath**, State Minister of Company Estate Reforms, Tea and Rubber Estates Related Crops Cultivation and Factories Modernization and Tea and Rubber Export Promotion
- Hon. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries
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Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Naseer Ahamed

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena

Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem

Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. Marjan Faleel

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 121(1) of the Parliament and the Resolution adopted by Parliament on 10th December 2020, the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Finance, during the First Session of the Ninth Parliament:—

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. Nalin Fernando”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the First Instalment – Parts X, XI, XII and XIII and Fourth Instalment – Parts IV and V and Sixth Instalment – Parts III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2019 in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Eighth Instalment – Part XIII of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Formulation and Implementation of the National Education Policies;
- (ii) Eighth Instalment – Part XIV of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Performance on the Project of Resettlement of Families Living in High Risk Landslide Zones in the District of Kandy of the Central Province;
- (iii) Eighth Instalment – Part XV of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Evaluation on the Performance of Fulfillment of the Functions of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka; and
- (iv) Eighth Instalment – Part XVI of the Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Performance of the Horowpothana Elephant Holding Ground

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(3) The Minister of Highways presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Jaya Container Terminals Limited for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports & Shipping.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade presented the Report of the said Committee on, “Intellectual Property (Amendment) Bill” which was referred to the Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

(1) Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka presented —

- (i) a petition dated 28.10.2020 from Mrs. Jayawathie Denipitiya of No. 62/C, Dekanduwala Road, Batiwita, Gonapola Junction; and
- (ii) a petition dated 07.09.2020 from Mrs. Rasindu Pathumma Rani of No. 52/D, Ambagahawaththa, Atulugama, Bandaragama.

(2) Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage presented —

- (i) a petition dated 11.09.2020 from Mr. H. M. Nihal Wijekumara of No. 4/92B, Abhayapura, Mapakadawewa; and
- (ii) a petition dated 18.11.2020 from Mrs. I. K. Pubudu Kumuduni Perera of Senior Manager (Administration & HR), Bank of Ceylon, Metropolitan Branch, Colombo – 01.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order 30(10) of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Ministerial Consultative Committees : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 112(1) of the Parliament and the decision taken on 08th December, 2020 by the Committee of Selection, the following two (2) Ministerial Consultative Committees be appointed to be designated, in addition to the Twenty Eight (28) Ministerial Consultative Committees approved by Parliament on 08th September 2020 :—

1. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology; and
2. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security.

Each Ministerial Consultative Committee shall consist of the Cabinet Minister in charge of the relevant subject as the Chair, State Minister, Deputy Minister and Five (5) other Members of Parliament to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to discuss and report upon such matters as are referred to it.

The quorum of each Ministerial Consultative Committee shall be three (3) Members.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 1) : Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe seconded by Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill :—

“Bill to amend the Tobacco Tax Act, No. 08 of 1999.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Finance for report.

7. Leave to introduce Bill (No. 2) : Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe seconded by Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill :—

“Bill to amend the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Law, No. 1 of 1975.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Minister of Finance for report.

8. Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2191/25 of 02nd September 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

(At 1.30 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health moved,—That Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.30 p.m. Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam took the Chair.)

The Minister of Tourism moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.31 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

(At 4.09 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2198/57 of 23rd October 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act (No. 3) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2199/2 of 26th October 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act (No. 4) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2203/37 of 28th November 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2189/47 of 21st August 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2197/3 of 12th October 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Order under the Finance Act : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 relating to Embarkation Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2194/6 of 21st September 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008, relating to Strategic Development Project and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2201/6 of 10th November 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008, relating to Strategic Development Project and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2202/3 of 16th November 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

17. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 3) : The Minister of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008, relating to Strategic Development Project and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2203/16 of 24th November 2020, which was presented on 10.12.2020, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

18. Intellectual Property (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Trade moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Trade moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Trade moved,— That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

19. Adjournment (Principal Appointments to Teachers Appointed on Supernumerary Basis) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Education moved,—That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.49 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.11 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, January 08, 2021.